



**GLASS  
METAL  
STONE  
PORCELAIN**

**Please read this manual carefully before installing the product.**

**PRODUCT  
INSTALLATION  
GUIDELINES**

Everstone's innovative range of luxurious and decorative products requires special care during installation for best finished results. Pay additional attention to the substrate, adhesives, tools and know-how requirements.

Please read this manual prior to any installation and follow all points carefully during the process. If you have any doubt in how to proceed, please contact your Everstone local dealer prior to installation. Improper installation will void Everstone warranty.

## PRODUCT INSPECTION

Everstone GLASS mosaics & tiles are manufactured through a technique called FIRED GLASS. Due to the inherent properties of kiln fired products, colour shading and the given nominal sizes may vary slightly during production; this may occur even within the same batch. Everstone STONE mosaics are manufactured from natural products; variation in colour and movement is a typical characteristic of this natural material and must be expected. Due to its inherent surface variation natural stone mosaics require detailed planning for use and installation.

Everstone PORCELAIN mosaics are manufactured from impervious, high density full body porcelain tiles in compliance with International ISO9001-2000 Standards.

Everstone METAL mosaics are produced from a 1mm (Gauge 20) non-marine 304 grade stainless steel with a brushed surface finish and PVD plated (Physical Vapour Deposition) colour. The metal is bonded with a 10 year guaranteed polyurethane adhesive onto a white porcelain supporting biscuit. Sheets have excellent abrasion, corrosion and oxidation resistance.

Glass mosaic and tile products tend to be more delicate than many other ornamental products and somewhat prone to breakage during shipment. Implementation of this product determines the acceptance of the material and no further claim will be accepted; the end user is responsible for determining the acceptability of the product.

For all products, it is recommended to inspect all material upon receipt and dry-lay prior to installation. Open and inspect each product carton to confirm shading consistency. Randomly select 5~6 sheets or tiles from different cartons to establish colour control during installation. Before installing, blend sheets from different cartons to assure random placement during installation.

## SUBSTRATE

To ensure the best and longest lasting result, all substrates must be in firm and stable condition. The fixing surfaces must be clean, dry and free from dust, grease, oil or any contaminants likely to prevent the adhesive from bonding. Fibrous cement sheeting

and plasterboard must be fixed in accordance with the manufacturer's directions and should be damp sponged to remove all dust prior to tiling. Cement render/screed must be allowed to cure for 24 hours per 25mm of thickness. Concrete is to be left with a wood float finish and allowed to cure for at least 7 days before tiling. If tiling over existing tiles, then existing tiles must be firm and stable. Below is a list of substrates that are NOT recommended:

- Any wooden surface not totally dry.
- Poor quality fibre wood.
- Any floor or wall which shows sign of movement, vibration or similar.
- Any floor or wall which has cracks or distortion.

These substrates may cause permanent damage to the product due to their own natural expansion, movement and instability. More often than not, defects that do appear after installation have a direct and inevitable relation to the substrates preparation and quality; this can be strongly accentuated by the product type and size e.g. glass tiles. A suitable anti-fracture membrane should be used in these cases.

## INSTALLATION

### Fixing Tools

The use of correct professional equipment is critical in achieving the best results.

We recommend:

- 1) Steel pointer: to allow components edge adjustment.
- 2) Steel trowel: to prepare the substrate surface and back-butter tiles or sheets.
- 3) Notched trowel: to apply the adhesives.
- 4) Rubber float: for leveling the adhesive surface and applying the grout.
- 5) Rubber squeegee: to apply the grout.
- 6) Sponge: to clean the surface with water as well as smoothing grout.
- 7) Mixing whisk: to mix grout or adhesives powder with water or additives.

These tools are available at most local hardware stores.

### Cutting Tools

- 1) Professional Portable Cutting Machine:

A small professional portable cutting machine, such as a GEMINI Diamond Ring wet-saw (tile cutter), can be used to cut glass, metal, stone and porcelain mosaics and tiles without damaging or chipping the edges. The ease of operation is ideal for cutting curves and can guarantee the quality of the installation. For more details please visit [www.geminisaw.com](http://www.geminisaw.com).

- 2) Free Standing Electric Wet-Saw Tile Cutter:

Suitable for high volume cutting of stone and ceramics, these saws can deliver straight, smooth edges. Installed with a continuous-segmented diamond blade, cutting glass and metal products is also possible.

### 3) Hand-Cutting Tools:

Glass cutters and glazier pliers can be used to score and break normal size tiles. Please apply even and constant pressure when breaking the tiles. The broken edge should be sanded to minimize any potentially dangerous sharp edges. Installing these products requires high attention to detail. The assistance of a professional glazier is recommended in achieving a professional and accurate cut.

### **Fixing Material**

The following general installation and grouting guidelines pertain to most mosaic or tile installation. The technical service departments of the setting material manufacturing companies should be consulted regarding specific installation questions.

#### Adhesive, Grout and Silicone:

It is best to use a white thin-set adhesive modified with polymer or latex for glass or stone as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. White thin-set adhesives will not shadow the rear face of the glass and will assist in maintaining the brightest appearance in colour of the glass. Always butter the full rear face of the mosaic product prior laying.

Everstone® recommends the use of LATICRETE adhesives, grout and silicone:

#### Adhesives:

Thin Bed Adhesive: LATICRETE Glass Tile Adhesive  
Coloured thin bed Adhesive: LATICRETE 4237 Latex Admix with LATICRETE PermaColor  
Chemical resistant Epoxy Thin Bed Adhesive - LATAPOXY 300 Adhesive (For installing tiles on clean, rigid, steel substrates or resin- backed mosaic tiles in water-immersed areas).  
Thick Bed Mortar: LATICRETE 3701 Fortified Mortar

#### Grout:

Polymer Fortified Cement Grout: LATICRETE PermaColor Grout for 1.5 mm to 12 mm joint widths.  
StainProof, chemical resistant Epoxy Grout: LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout.  
Soft Movement joint: 100% Silicone: LATICRETE Latasil. For more details please visit [www.laticrete.com](http://www.laticrete.com)

### **Grouting**

Everstone mosaics and tiles should be set with a minimum of 2mm grout joint. Use a non-sanded grout to prevent scratching of the glass or stone surface. Excessive grout should be removed immediately once grout has firmed using a damp soft sponge. After installation, it is recommended that the fixed product should be cleaned with a commonly accepted grout cleaner. For Joint-Free mosaics or interlocking sheets we recommend mixing a matching tint to the adhesive to avoid possible colour contrast when excessive gaps are present or unavoidable. Please take extra care when using strong bonding grouts such as polymer or epoxy;

these may create grout residue on the tile surface if cleaning is delayed or done incorrectly. Please always follow the manufacturer's instructions for the correct use and cleaning methods. In case of persistent grout residues or haze please consult a professional cleaner.

### **Expansion and Control Joints**

The amount and location of expansion joints depends on substrate, climate and area of installation. Soft joints are essential for the success of most tile installations. Silicon caulking must be used in place of the grout throughout the perimeter of the work, when butting with restraining surfaces or where different substrate compositions meet. Existing joints in sub-surfaces must be carried through the tile work. For waterproofing and crack isolation membrane Everstone recommends LATICRETE Hydro Ban. To improve waterproof barrier in wet areas, the use of LATICRETE Hydro Ban over existing, non-structural, hairline cracks  $\leq 3\text{mm}$  in the substrate is recommended.

### **Cutting, Scoring and Breaking**

Everstone Crystal Glass products are produced from 8mm optic grade float glass with a layer of premium ceramic glaze colour and 2 coats of white ceramic backing screen printed and kiln fired at temperatures up to 800°C; this process allows colour to hold and improves substrate adhesion. The glass tiles can be simply cut with any continuous-segmented Diamond Blade or Diamond Wire wet-saw tile cutter (eg. GEMINI Saw). Install by using only white adhesive. The use of score and break is also common for basic cutting requirements. Metal mosaics and tiles have a 1mm stainless steel sheet laminated on a porcelain biscuit. Cutting can be performed by the use of a standard Wet-Saw machine installed with a continuous segmented high quality diamond blade. Cutting must be performed slowly at all times to avoid high temperature build up, which could discolour the metal surface or damage the bond of the metal to the ceramic biscuit. Cutting Natural Stone or Porcelain mosaics will require similar equipment.

Cut edges should be sanded using a sanding block to avoid sharp edge injuries. The mesh to tesserae bonding is partially waterproof, the application of a clear tape on the surface of the mosaic sheets is recommended in keeping original format during extended cutting processes. The clear tape can then be removed after cutting once the sheet is completely dry.

### **Drilling**

Any small diameter hole can be drilled using a suitable material drill bit. To avoid chipping or possible cracking, mosaic should be drilled from both sides, starting from the rear side of the component. Always use slow speed and an abundance of constant cooling water to avoid damage by overheating or stress. Never use any hammer settings.

## **SPECIAL CARE**

### **Installation around Sanitary Ware or Fixtures**

If any hardware is required to protrude through the tiles, we recommend installing a separating sleeve between the substrate and the hardware; this will avoid any pressure being placed on the mosaic or tile surface.

### **Light Fixtures**

Please be aware that any type of lighting located on or near a tiled wall will accentuate irregularities by casting shadows on the tile surface joints. When overhead lights are used, these should be fixed at least 600mm or 24" away from the wall. Installing these permanent lights prior to the installation of mosaics and tiles will allow the tiler to make better adjustments during installation. Critical lighting problems also occur when outside natural light, through windows and doors, casts shadows from slightly irregular tile surfaces; this occurs especially when brick-bond installation pattern of large tiles is required. Substrate and tiles should be carefully inspected prior to commencing installations.

### **Kitchen Areas**

Mosaics or tiles should never be laid directly next to an open flame (e.g. on gas stoves). Everstone tiles should be at least 30cm or 12" away from any open flame.

### **Wet Areas/Underwater Applications**

When installing Everstone products underwater, ensure to lay them without creating any hollow spaces. In the case of glass mosaics and tiles, these spaces will create dark shadows on the rear face of the tile once the area is filled with water. Always remember to completely butter the rear face of the product with adhesive. Mosaics with face mount film are better suited than those with netting. Simply remove the foil once the tile adhesive has set and grout as normal.

### **Anti-Fracture / Water Proof Membrane**

An anti-fracture or waterproof membrane should be used in all wet areas installations or where substrates settling movements are expected.

### **Cleaning Instructions**

When using cleaning agents, always read carefully any instructions given by the manufacturer. Never use cleaning agents which contain hydrofluoric acid or any of its compounds (eg. fluoride). Even when heavily diluted, these will corrode most products' surfaces. Please note, when cleaning, always take the surrounding materials into consideration!

For metal mosaics or tiles, we recommend using 3M Stainless Steel Cleaner and Polisher. For normal cleaning, spray the area lightly, clean and finally polish to the desired shine using a clean dry cloth. For removing light scratches on the Metal Mosaic, you can use the same product with a steel wool pad,

gently rubbing in a circular motion and then wiping it clean with a damp cloth. 3M can be found in most local supermarket or hardware stores.

If you have any questions please contact your Everstone local distributor or dealer for assistance. More information is also available on Everstone website [www.everstone.com](http://www.everstone.com).